

# The West Oakland Link

Meeting 2 out of 5

Overview of Design

Oct. 10, 2023

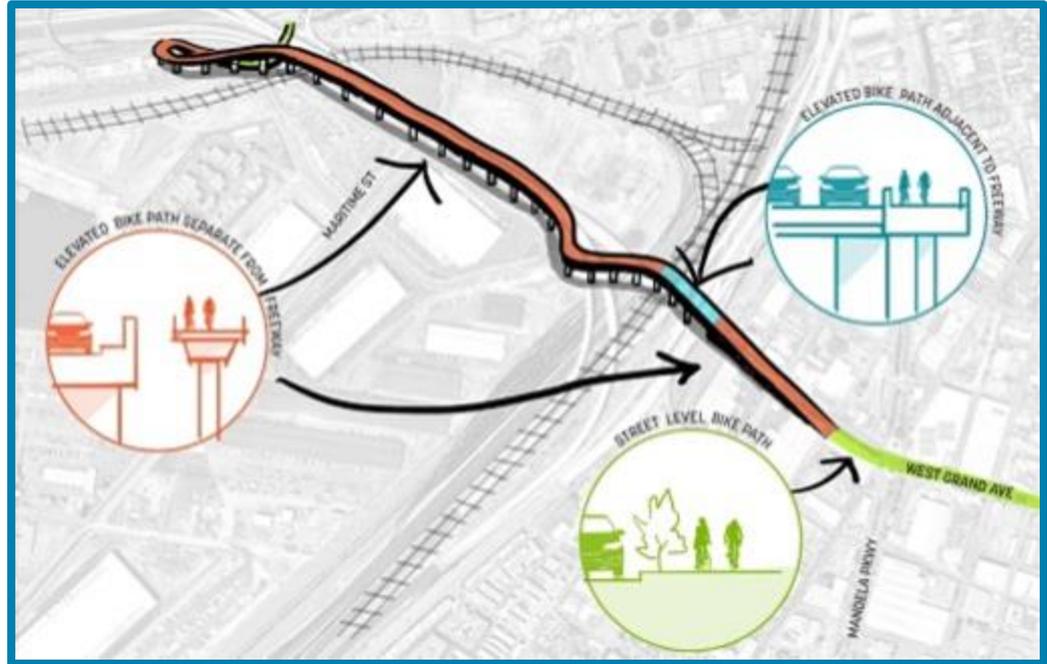


# What is the project?

In simple language this is a trail project.

The West Oakland Link of the Bay Skyway, is part of the Bay Trail and will provide a safe 15-foot-wide connection for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel between West Oakland, the Port of Oakland, and the Bay Bridge Trail.

- 1.1 miles of separated, elevated low-stress multi-use path
- Connects with the planned Grand Ave protected bike lane (to downtown) at Mandela/Grand intersection
- Landscaping and community amenities based on community input



# Schedule

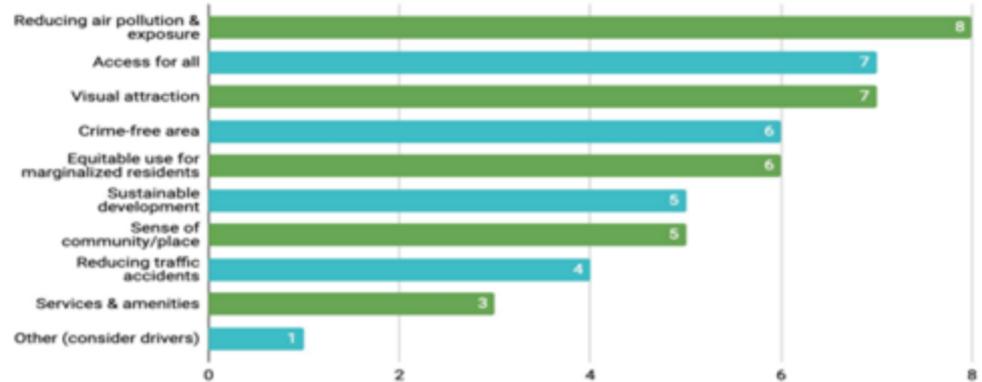
RSVP to upcoming meetings at [woeip.org/events](https://woeip.org/events)

Phase	Meeting	Date	Purpose
1	1: Intro to the West Oakland Link	9/1/2023	Start the community engagement process.
<b>Tonight</b> →	<b>2: Design Deep-dive</b>	<b>10/10/2023</b>	<b>Explore design elements shaping the path at key locations.</b>
	3: Environmental Justice, Air Pollution & Public Health	10/17/2023	Explore the health and equity implications of the path's location through an area with elevated pollution levels.
	4: Streetscapes, Intersections & Traffic Safety	10/25/2023	Use shared local knowledge to help shape a path that accommodates different modes of transportation for all.
	5: Placemaking, Design & History	11/8/2023	Root the Link in local history and create a sense of community.
2	Design Update Meeting 1	2/2024	
	Design Update Meeting 2	6/2024	
3	Design Update and Construction Phase Introduction Meeting	8/2024	
4	Pre-Construction Phase Meeting	3/2025	

# Recap from the kickoff meeting

## Which of the following things are most important to you for a path through West Oakland to the Bay Trail?

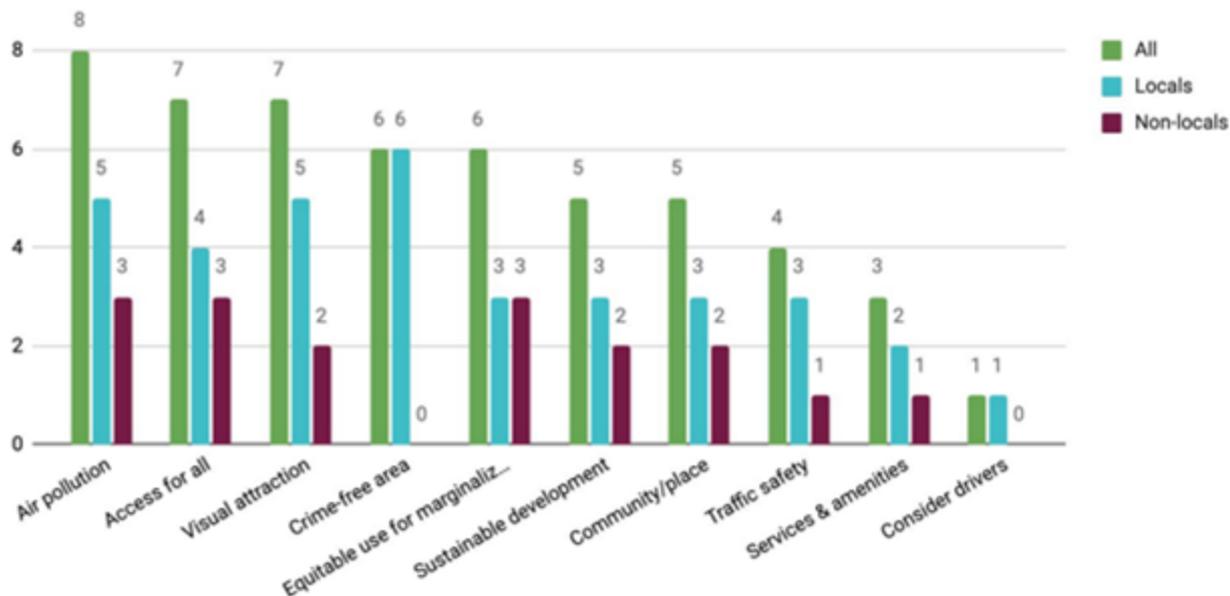
Reducing air pollution and **exposure** was most frequently named one of the top 3 most important factors for respondents, followed by **ensuring access for all** and **creating a visually attractive space**.



## Top 3 most important factors continued

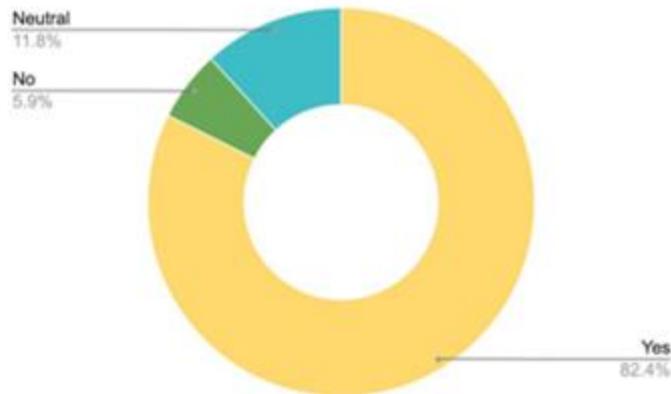
Across most factors, respondents tend to align regardless of where they live or work. There are notable exceptions, however.

Locals value a **visually attractive space** more than non-locals (71% vs. 29%), and overwhelmingly value a **crime-free area** more than non-locals (100% of those placing this in their top 3 were locals).



# Do you have safety or health concerns?

A large majority of respondents (83%) have safety or health concerns with the Link.



The most frequently-cited concerns were:

- Exposure to vehicle exhaust and noise pollution
- Traffic safety (primarily cars and trucks, but bike/e-bike speed limits also came up)
- Low use/too few people impacting safety
- Crime and safety (particularly theft)

Other concerns included:

- Lack of monitoring/access to emergency services
- Lighting and visibility
- Accessibility options (rest areas)
- Litter

# What we are doing tonight

- **Understand key locations along the path.**

We will review 5 key segments of the path to understand how they fit into the existing space.

- **Explore ways to shape the path experience.**

We'll look at how different elements—such as benches, planting, and lighting—can improve the Link for residents like you.

- **Discuss & document your insight to inform designs.**

Online participants can go to [woeip.org/wolink-survey2](https://woeip.org/wolink-survey2) to provide feedback as we go.

If you're in the room, you can scan the QR code or use the packet provided.



# Meeting Expectations

- Please communicate with respect and be mindful of how much space you're taking while engaging those who haven't spoken
- Respect time agreements and stay on topic in order to achieve our meeting goals
- We actively listen with an open mind, respecting multiple points of view
- We assume good faith in giving and receiving feedback, criticism and questions
- We check for diversity gaps (who is missing) and propose solutions for it

# Introductions to presenters



**Gavin Lohry**  
*He/Him*

*Metropolitan Transportation  
Commission/Bay Area Toll  
Authority*



**Nicole Merino Tsui**  
*She/her*

*West Oakland Environmental  
Indicator Project*



**Geo Mayne**  
*They/Them*

*Einwiller Kuehl Landscape  
Architecture-Associate*



**Sarah Kuehl**  
*She/Her*

*Einwiller Kuehl Landscape  
Architecture- Principal*



**Geeti Silwal**  
*She/her*

*Perkins and Will Architecture  
- Urban Design*



**Dishaddra Poddar**  
*He/him*

*Perkins and Will Architecture  
- Urban Design*

# Where is the project on a map?



*The Bay Area bike path network*

*Enlargement of the West Oakland Link*

# Local Urban Trails: Varied



*Ohlone Greenway, Berkeley + El Cerrito*



*Ohlone Greenway*



*Iron Horse Regional Trail, Pleasant Hill*



*SFOBB Trail*

## Primary Uses

THE TRAIL IS A DESTINATION AND BIKING OR WALKING ON IT IS THE PRIMARY ACTIVITY.



# What elements are part of a trail?

*Besides circulation, what does a trail usually include? Add any we forgot to the chat or call out ideas.*

Vistas and Overlooks

Trailhead

Restrooms & Water Fountains

Rest Areas

Car & Bike Parking

Bike Repair Stations

Information (Signage, Pamphlets)

Benches & Seating

Lighting & Call boxes

Play Equipment

Exercise Equipment

Barriers, Gates & Fences

Trash Receptacles & Recycling

Storytelling and interpretation or public art

# THE TRAIL IS THE AMENITY

What *linear* programs could occur here?

Cycling

Running

Hiking

Dog walking

Scooter Riding

Walking Tours

Rollerblading

Skateboarding

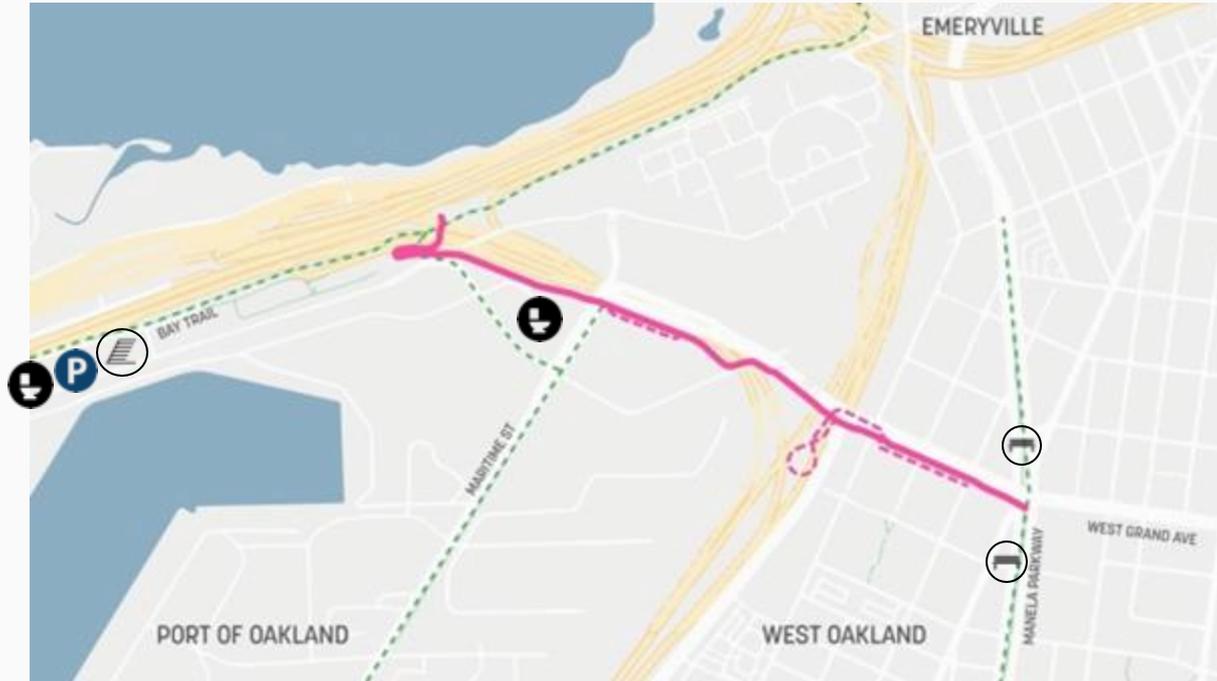
Exercise Stations

Photography

Bird Watching

Environmental Cleanups

# Elements currently existing along the trail



LEGEND

Public Parking



Proposed Public Restrooms



Protected Bike Lanes



Seating with Views



Benches

# Reducing Air Pollution & Exposure

## Air Quality Monitors



## Education

**WHAT ARE AIR TOXICS?**  
Compounds in the air that can harm our health

**HOW ARE WE EXPOSED?**

Air Toxics

Air

Drinking Water

Soil and Food

Respiratory illness

Heart attacks

Birth Defects

Cancer

Nervous System Damage

**WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS?**

**WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?**

Chemicals people use

Cars and Trucks

Businesses and Industry Sources

The infographic features a central illustration of a person sitting at a table, with arrows indicating exposure from the air, soil and food, and drinking water. Below this, icons represent various health effects: lungs for respiratory illness, a heart for heart attacks, a baby for birth defects, a cancer ribbon for cancer, and a brain for nervous system damage. At the bottom, silhouettes of a house, a car, a truck, and a factory represent sources of air toxics.

## Vegetative Buffers



Recommended planting order for Row 1 and 3: 2-3 Deciduous trees, 2-3 Conifer trees, 2-3 deciduous trees, 2-3 conifer trees, repeated. Trees should be planted in succession with 10-15' between them.



# Creating Climate Comfort

## Shade



## Wind



## Sound Barriers



# Safety



*Lighting as art*



*Lighting and activated with people creates a safe place to walk at night: Lake Merritt, Oakland*



*Rest point with seating, emergency call box and lighting on the Bay Bridge*

# Planting

## Types of Planting along an Urban Trail

Tree Screening Highways



Trail Planting Buffer



Linear Park- Beginning of Trail



# Accessibility



# Storytelling + History



*Huey P Newton Memorial Sculpture- Mandela Parkway, Oakland*



*Social + Ecological History*



*Historic Photo Interpretation, Jack London*

# Trailheads + Gateways



*Educational & Interactive Signage*



*The Bike Bridge, Oakland*

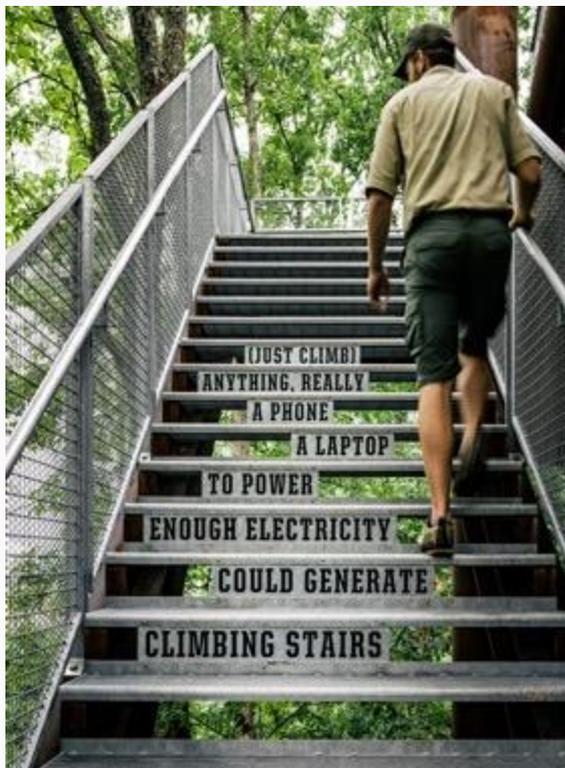


*Trail Map at Gateway*

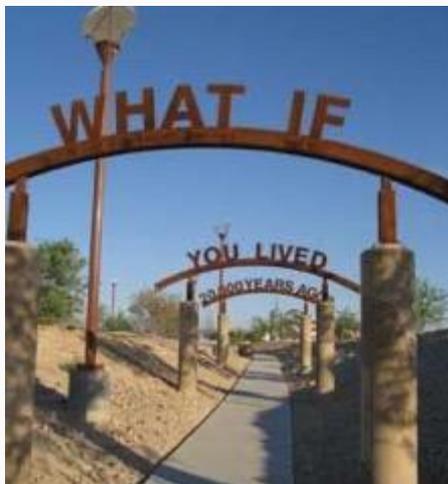
# Interpretation



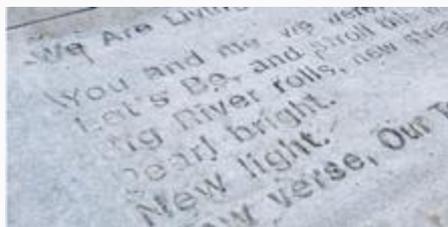
# Poems and Text



Interpretive experiences



Moving Signage



Poetry in the paving



Vertical Poetry

# Different Ways to Engage



Explore the ground plane



Multilingual Signage and Cultural Significance



Interactive Weather and Ecology



Games or ways



Sitting and moving

# Maps + Directions



Painted Trail



Painted programming

# Seating + Places to Rest



*Seating with Planting*



*Long and linear*



*Accessible Picnic Tables*

# Bike Infrastructure



*Air Quality Monitors*



*Bike Racks*



*Bike Repair Station*



*Drinking Fountains*



*Bike Lockers*



*Tracking Cyclists and Pedestrian traffic*

# Opportunities of play along the path



*The thrill of a net suspended above*



*A surprise under an overpass*



*See saw*



*Slide from an overpass*



*Percussion instruments*

## Primary Uses

**THE TRAIL CAN ALSO HAVE A STRONG VISUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL IDENTITY.**



# The Path as sculptural form + identity



Auckland



Copenhagen



Auckland



# Public Art



*Murals*



*Wind Sculpture*

# Lookouts and Rest Areas



*Larkspur*



*The Highline- Overlooks*

# Destination uses



*Fitness*



*Banked skating area*



*Skatepark*



*Outdoor play*



*Utilizing space below for swings*



*Ohlone Greenway*



*Pop-up opportunity*

# Element Locations

## WHERE SHOULD ELEMENTS BE PLACED ALONG THE TRAIL?

### Community Priorities:

1. Reducing Air Pollution and Exposure
2. Accessible to All
3. Visually Attractive

# THE TRAIL IS A TOOL FOR COMMUNICATION

What *stories* are important to tell?

How can we tell the environmental justice story?

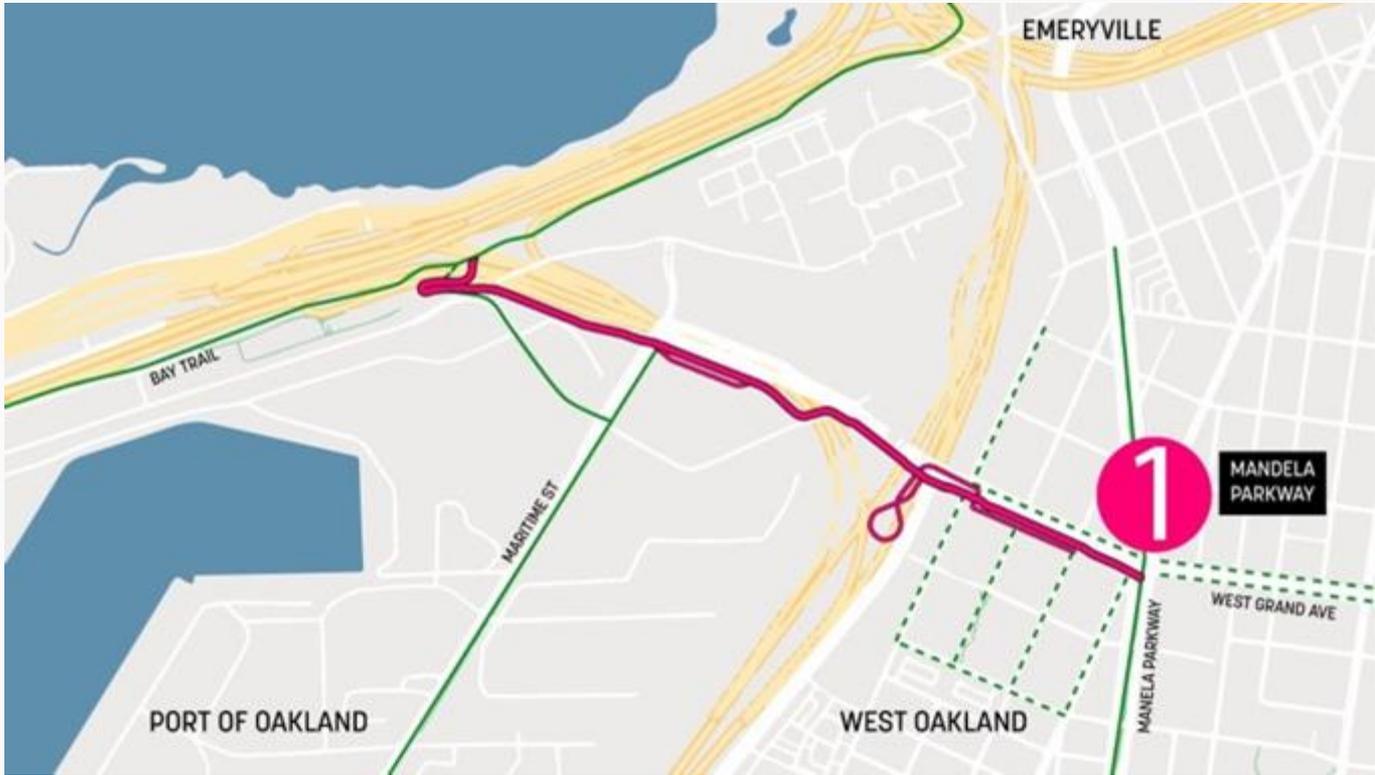
How can using the trail support advocacy for reducing pollution and exposure?

How does telling stories help make the trail more accessible and inclusive?

# Connecting to the neighborhood



# #1 Mandela Parkway | Key Map View



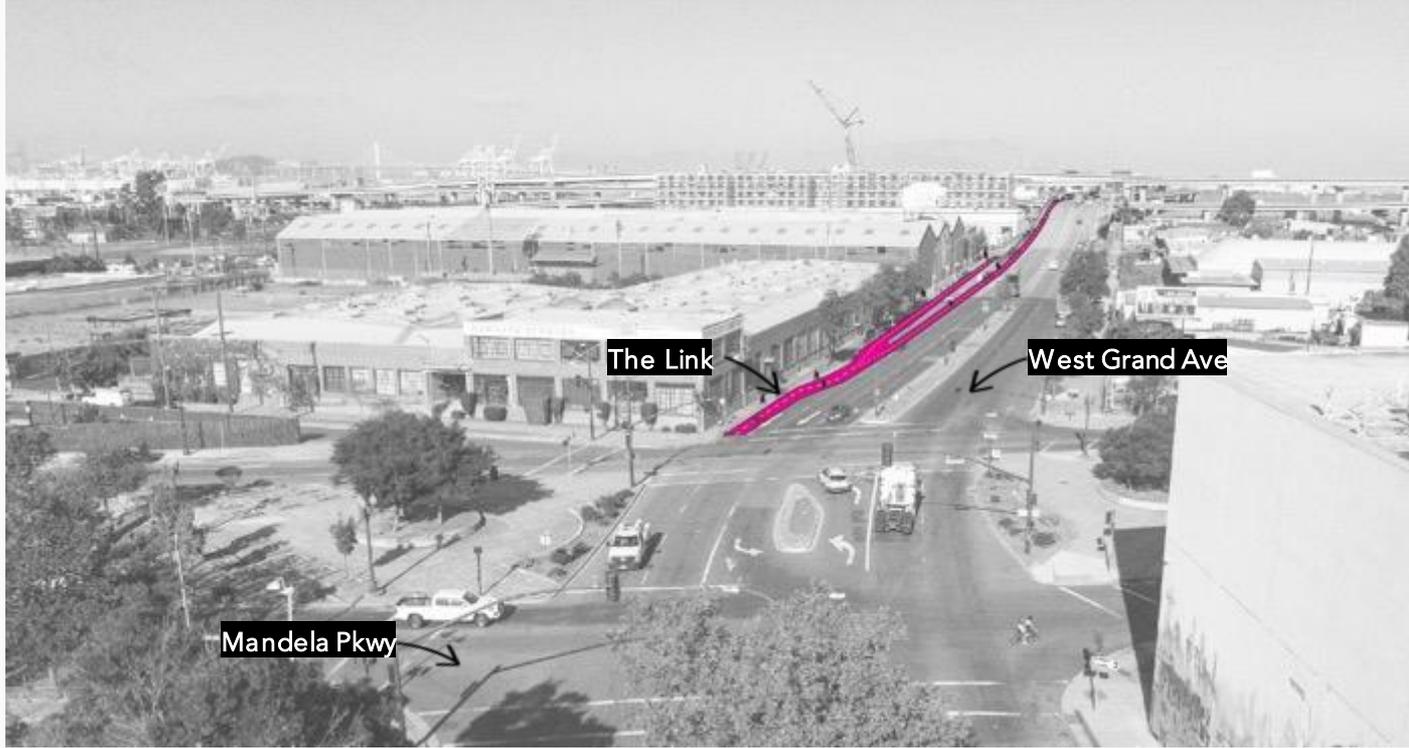
# #1 Mandela Parkway | Aerial View



## WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- It's a gateway to West Oakland
- It connected to spacious plazas bookending W. Grand Ave at Mandela
- Mandela is planted and has trees!
- There is a story of community activism and environmental justice to be told

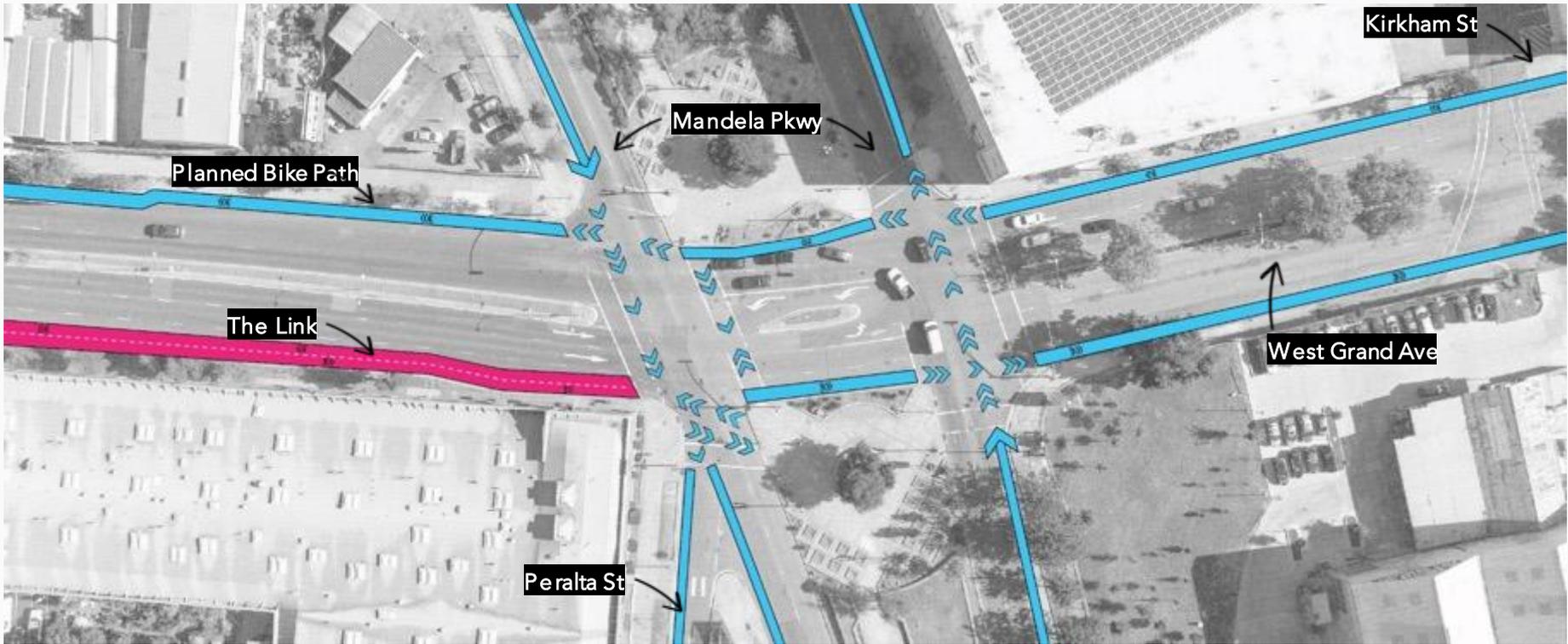
# #1 Mandela Parkway | Aerial View with Trail



## TRAIL CONSIDERATIONS

- This is a starting point for the bike path onto the bridge
- This is a place where pedestrians and bikes do not feel comfortable today due to heavy traffic and wide roads
- This is a highly visible location and has the potential for interpretation

# #1 Mandela Parkway | Plan View



# #1 Mandela Parkway | Inspiration

What elements should happen here?

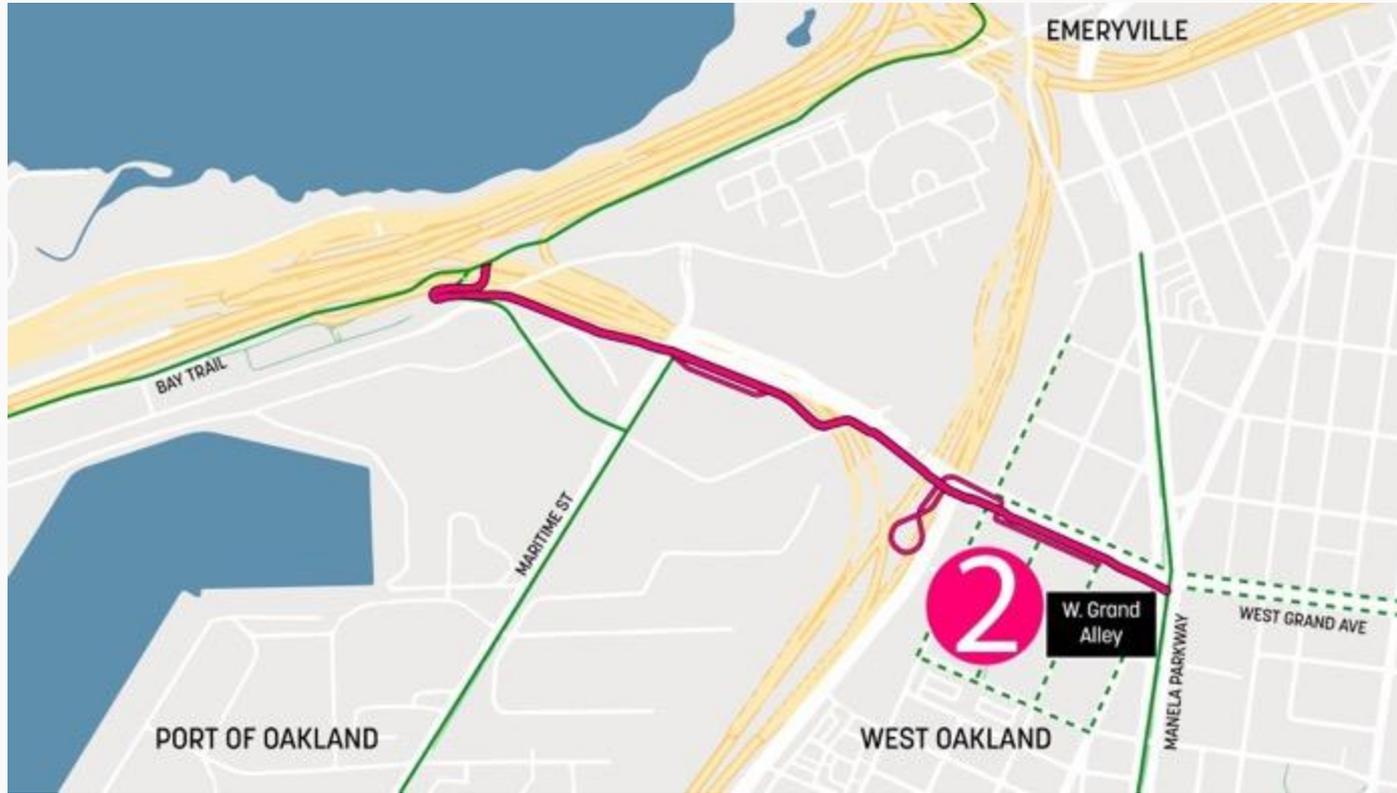


# #1 Mandela Parkway Gateway to WOL | Prompts

1. What do you expect to announce a beginning of an urban trail? How should this trail announce its beginning?
2. Is this a place to tell an important history or story?
3. How can the trail accommodate safety and equity for all multi-modal users on this segment of the trail?
4. What are things you like about Mandela parkway and how can connect to them?



# #2 West Grand Alley (Carless street) | Key Map View



# #2 West Grand Alley | Aerial View



## WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- It's very car-centric
- There is almost no planting
- The highway ramp creates a narrow canyon with the buildings

# #2 West Grand Alley | Aerial View



## WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- It is on the ground and could support plants
- It will be a carless street
- It could be a good opportunity for a timeline or linear interpretative element

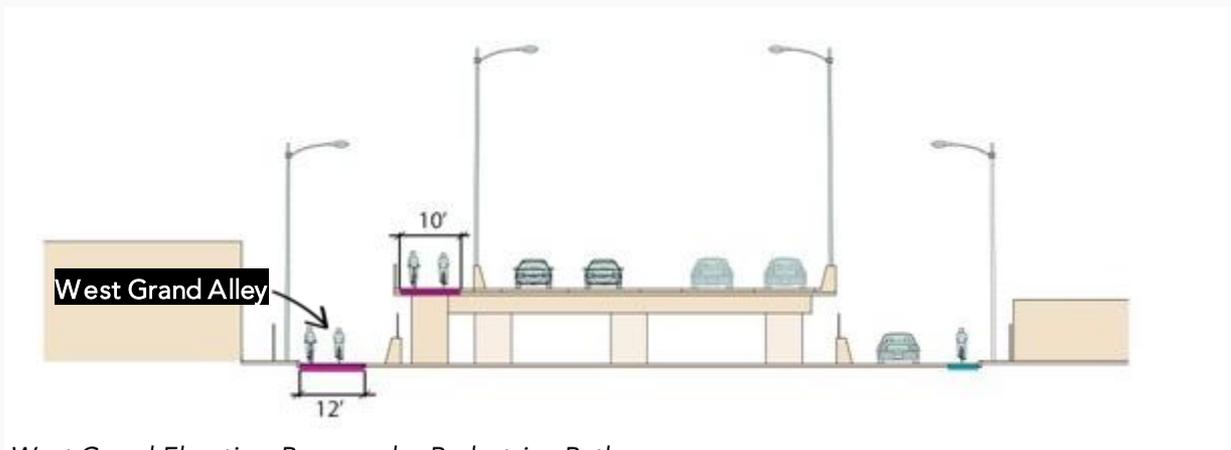
# #2 West Grand Alley | Plan View



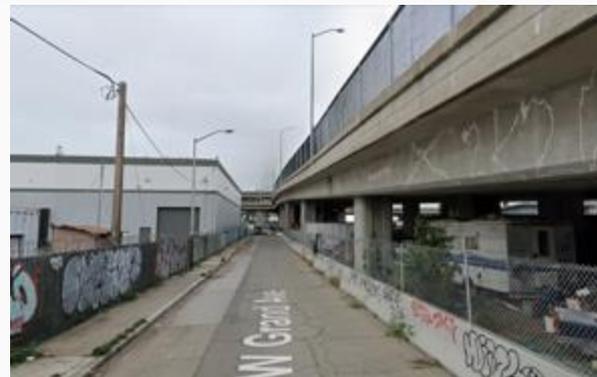
# #2 West Grand Alley | Section



- West Grand alley will have a 10' wide two way bikeway
- Above it the cycle track width is 10'-12'



West Grand Elevation Proposed + Pedestrian Path



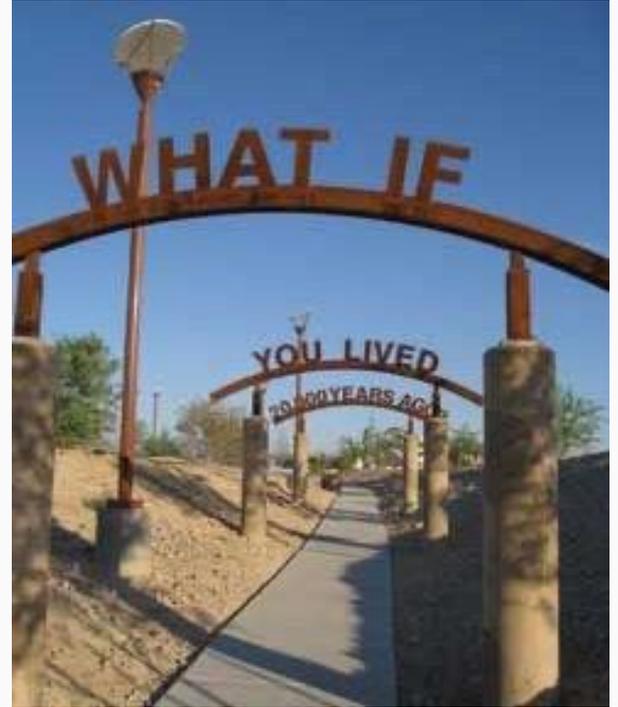
West Grand Alley Elevation Today (view West)



West Grand Alley Elevation Today (view East)

# #2 West Grand Alley | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?



# #2 Wood Street | Section



Wood Street Tunnel Elevation Proposed + Pedestrian Path



Wood Street Tunnel Elevation Today

# #2 West Grand at Wood Street | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?



# #2 West Grand Alley | Prompts

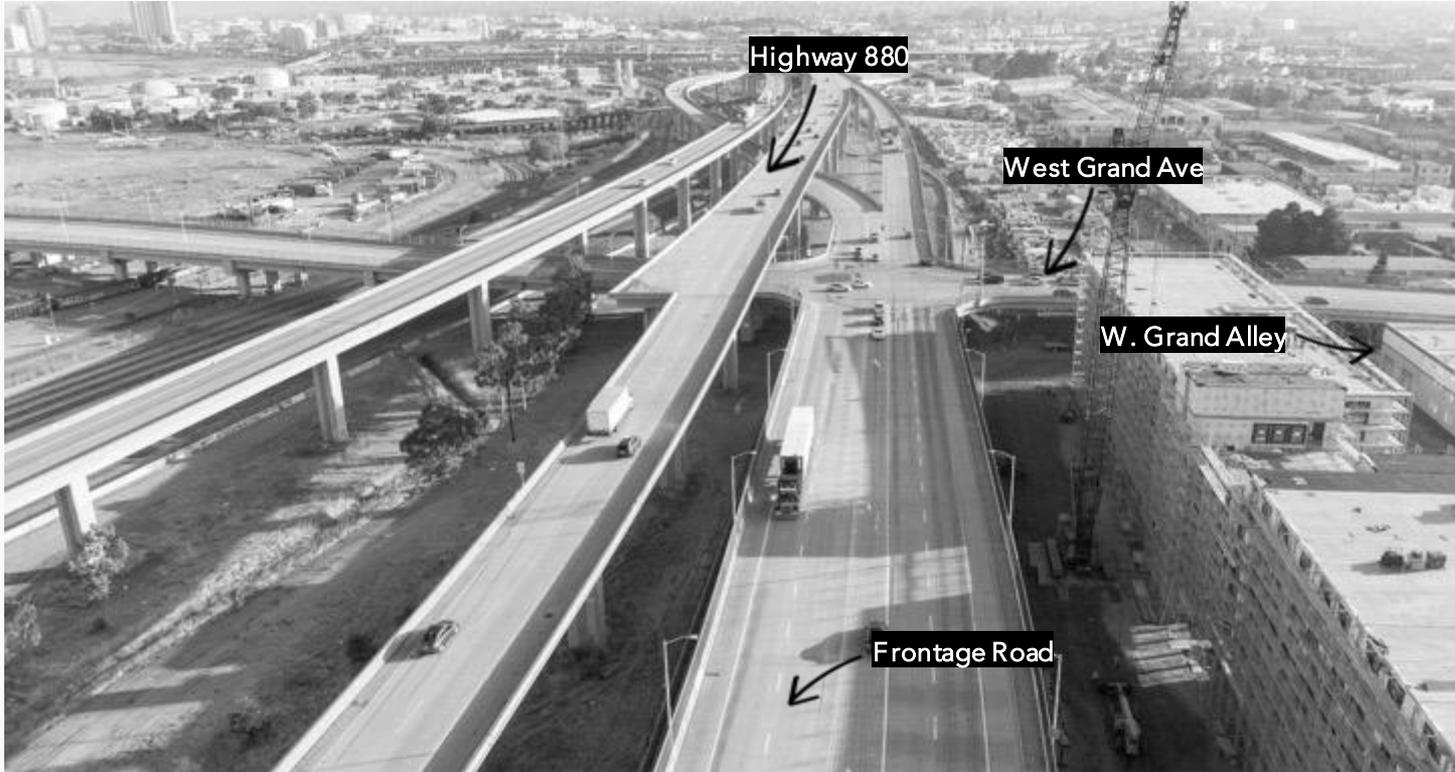
1. The alley is going to be a car-less street, what elements would make it welcoming?  
What would increase your feeling of safety?
2. We are on the ground here, what kinds of planting is desired? Flower gardens, Trees, etc.
3. The Wood Street connection is an underpass, is it a good opportunity for public art or planting?



# #3 Frontage Road Loop | Key Map View



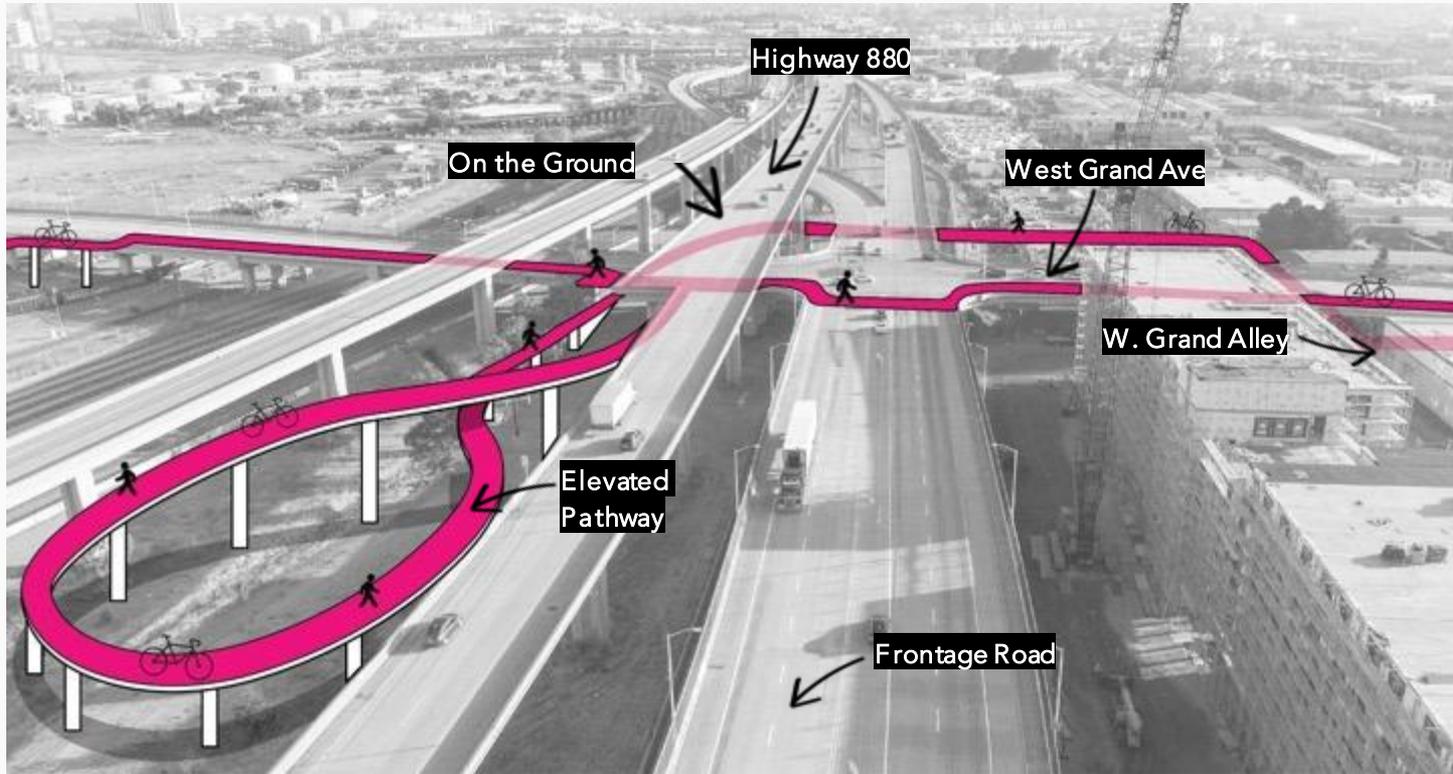
# #3 Frontage Road Loop | Aerial View



## WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- Great Views
- Not a place where people outside of cars feel welcome.
- It's isolated.

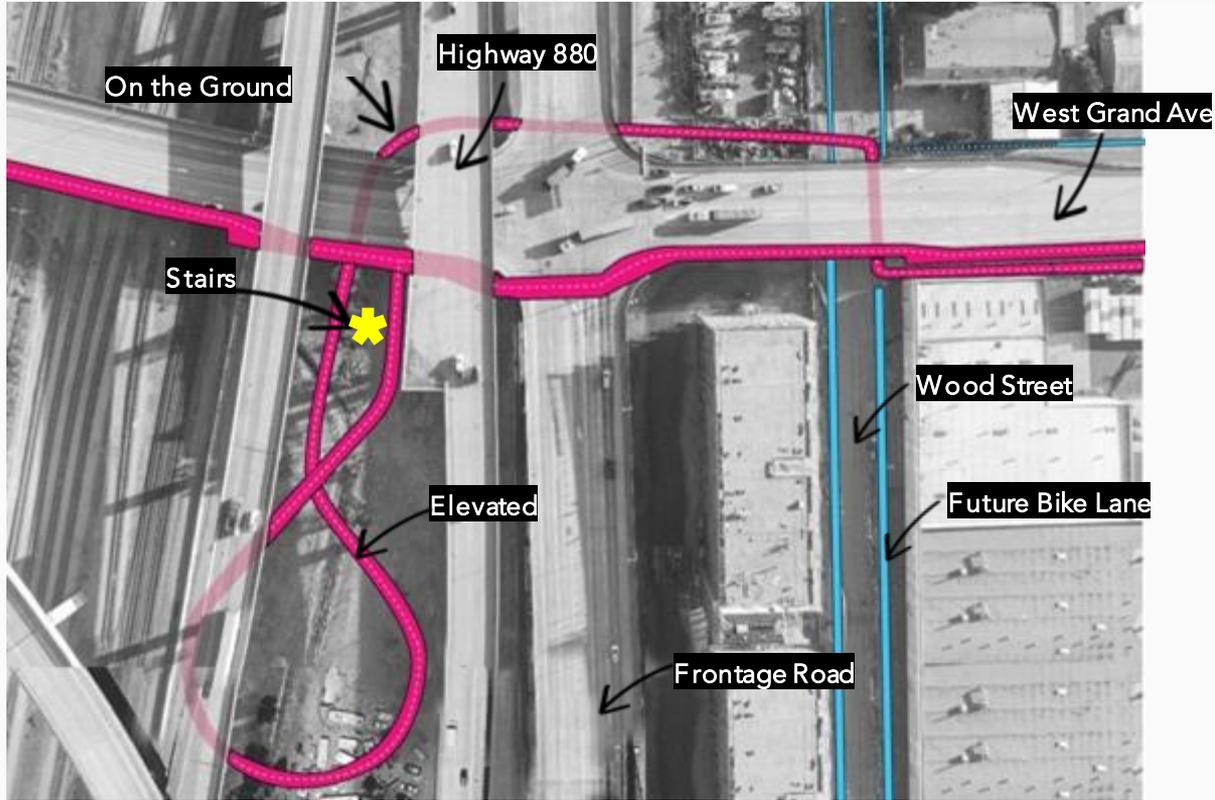
# #3 Frontage Road Loop | Aerial View



WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE HERE?

- 360 Degree Experience
- Curving and winding paths
- Change in elevation

# #3 Frontage Road Loop | Plan View



# #3 Frontage Road Loop | Section



*Frontage Road Elevation Today*



*Frontage Road Loop Elevation Proposed*

# #3 Frontage Rd Loop | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?

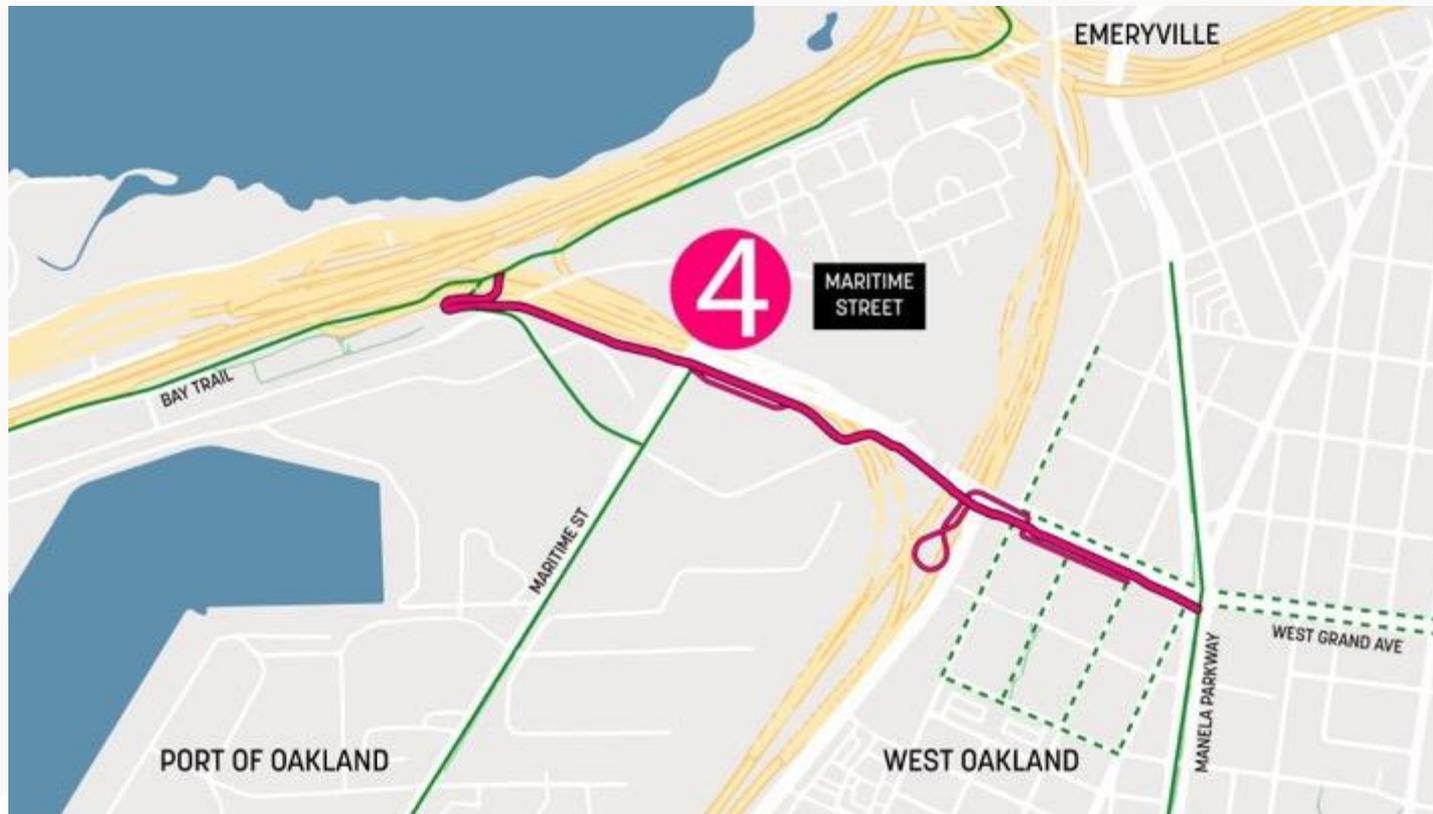


# #3 Frontage Road Loop | Prompts

1. Are there unique opportunities for views or borrowed landscape experiences that should be marked?
2. What elements would make this long winding journey more comfortable—seating, water?
3. Should the loop have an overhead element?



# #4 Maritime Street | Key Map View



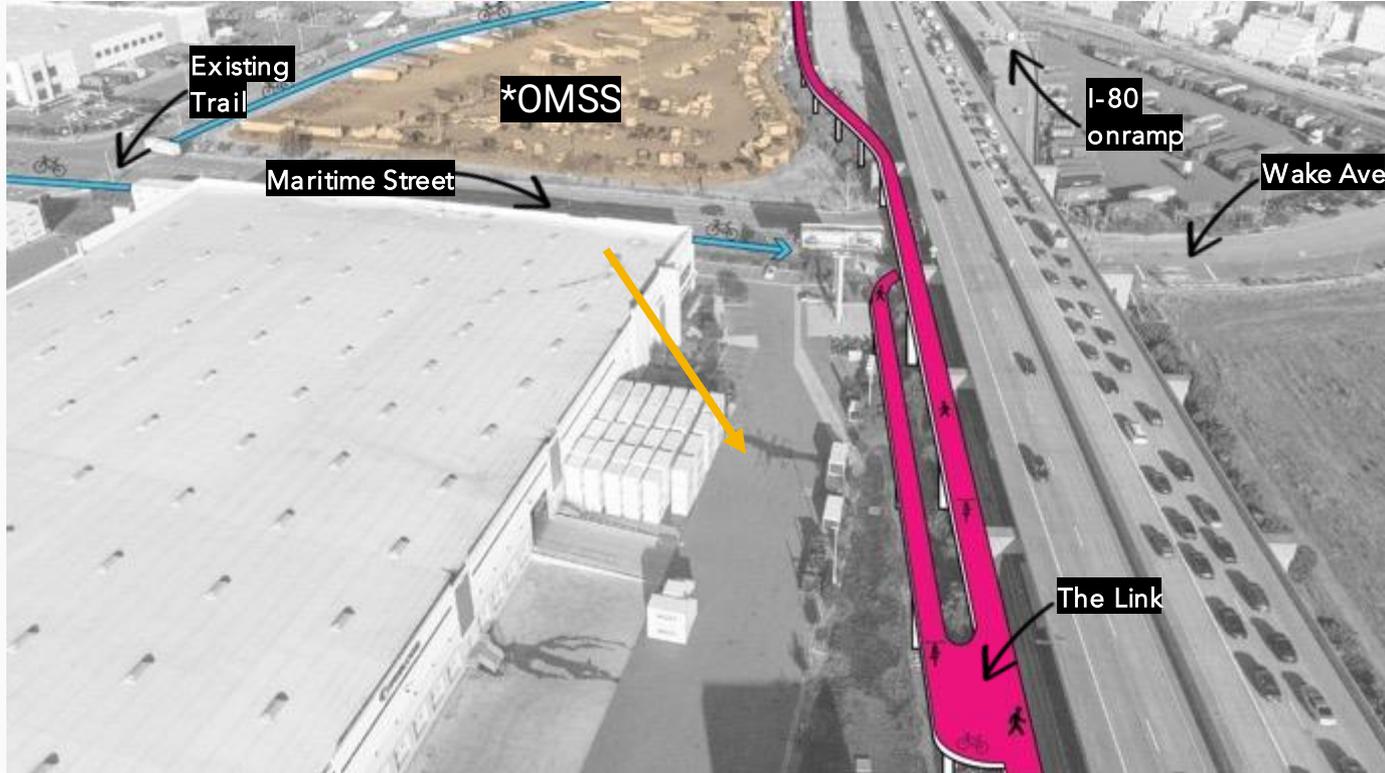
# #4 Maritime Street | Aerial View to West



## WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- Connects to Truck Parking
- Connects to truck Rest Area Ammenitites

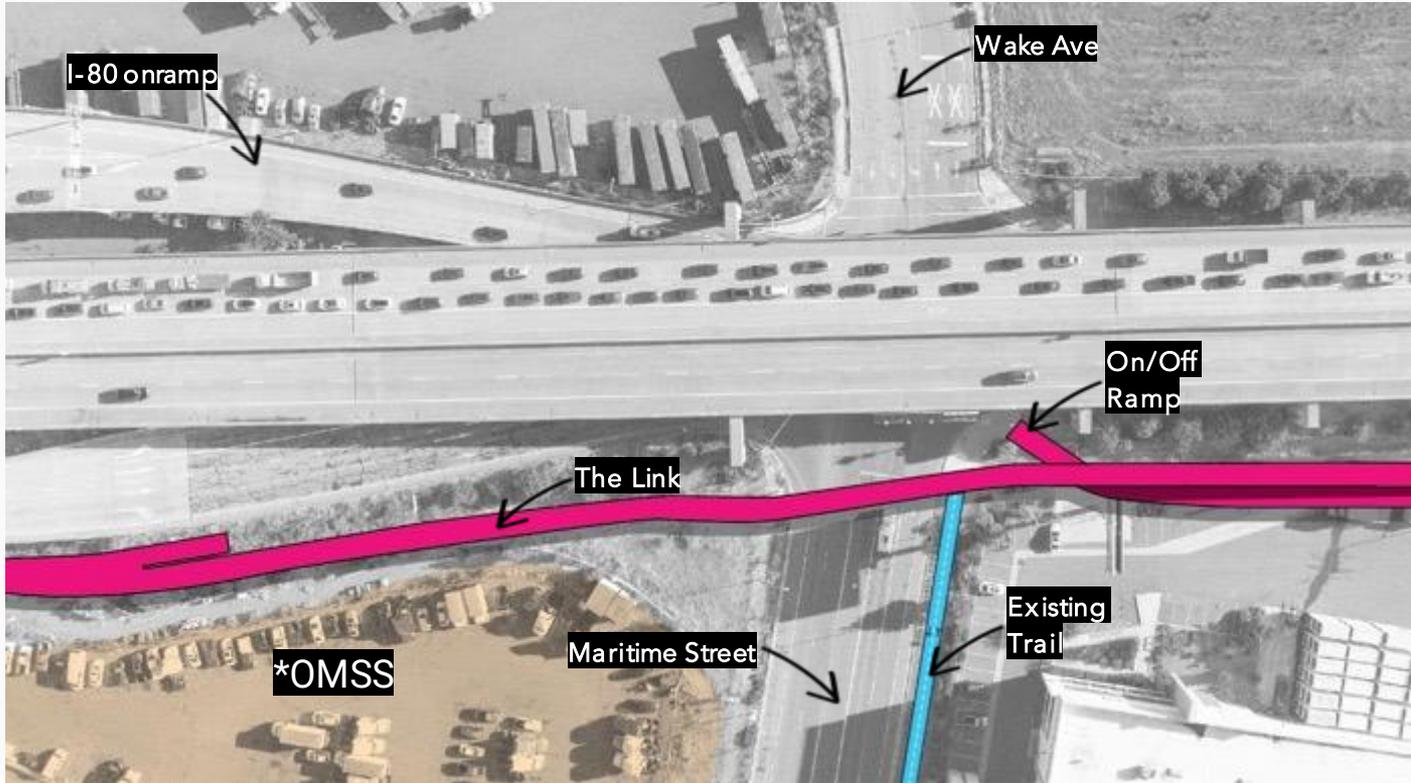
# #4 Maritime Street | Aerial View to West



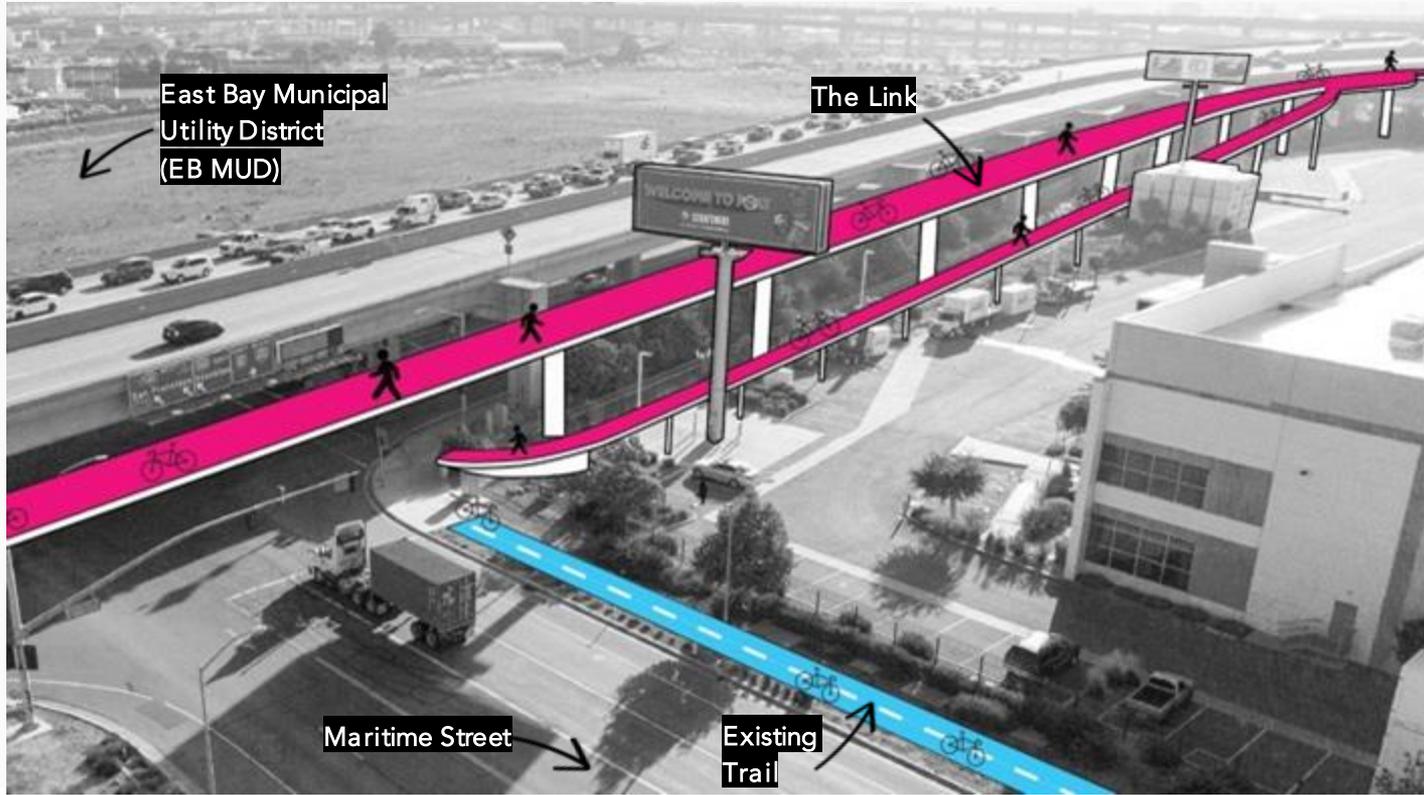
WHAT OPPORTUNITY IS HERE?

- Billboards
- High Views
- Big Viewsheds

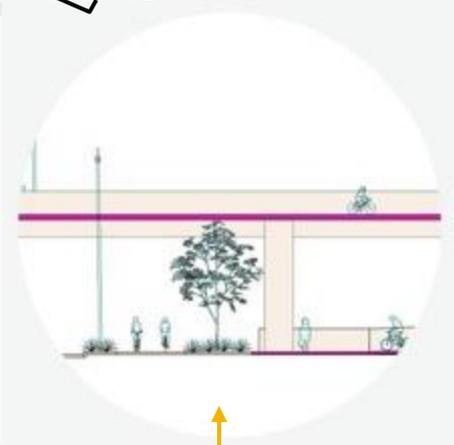
# #4 Maritime Street | Plan View



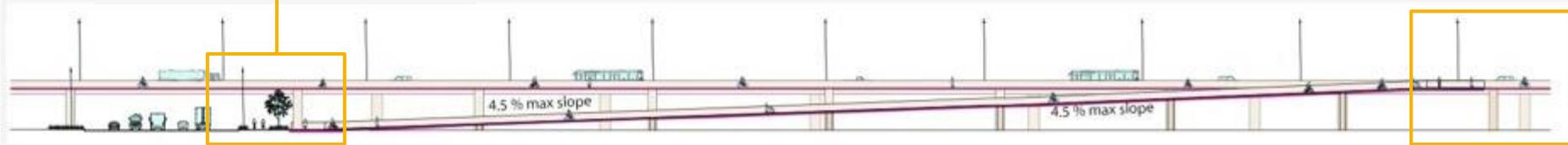
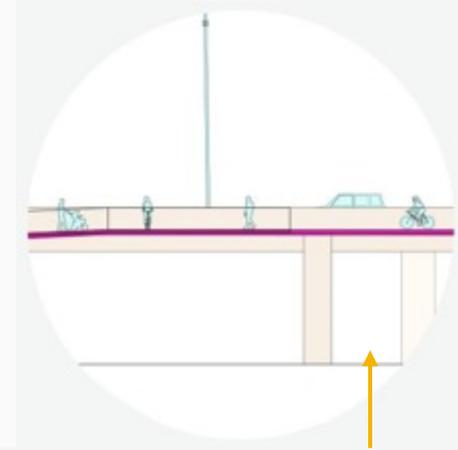
# #4 Maritime Street | Aerial View to East



# #4 Maritime Street | Elevation



Maritime Street Elevation Today



Maritime Street Elevation Proposed



# #4 Maritime Street | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?



# #4 Maritime St. | Prompts

1. What could frame or connect to the long views towards the Port and the water?
2. What would be an incentive to use the bike path from Maritime road? A fun lookout? Rest Stop? Sculpture? A bike Station?
3. How often should we provide rest areas or look outs?



# #5 Touchdown | Key Map View



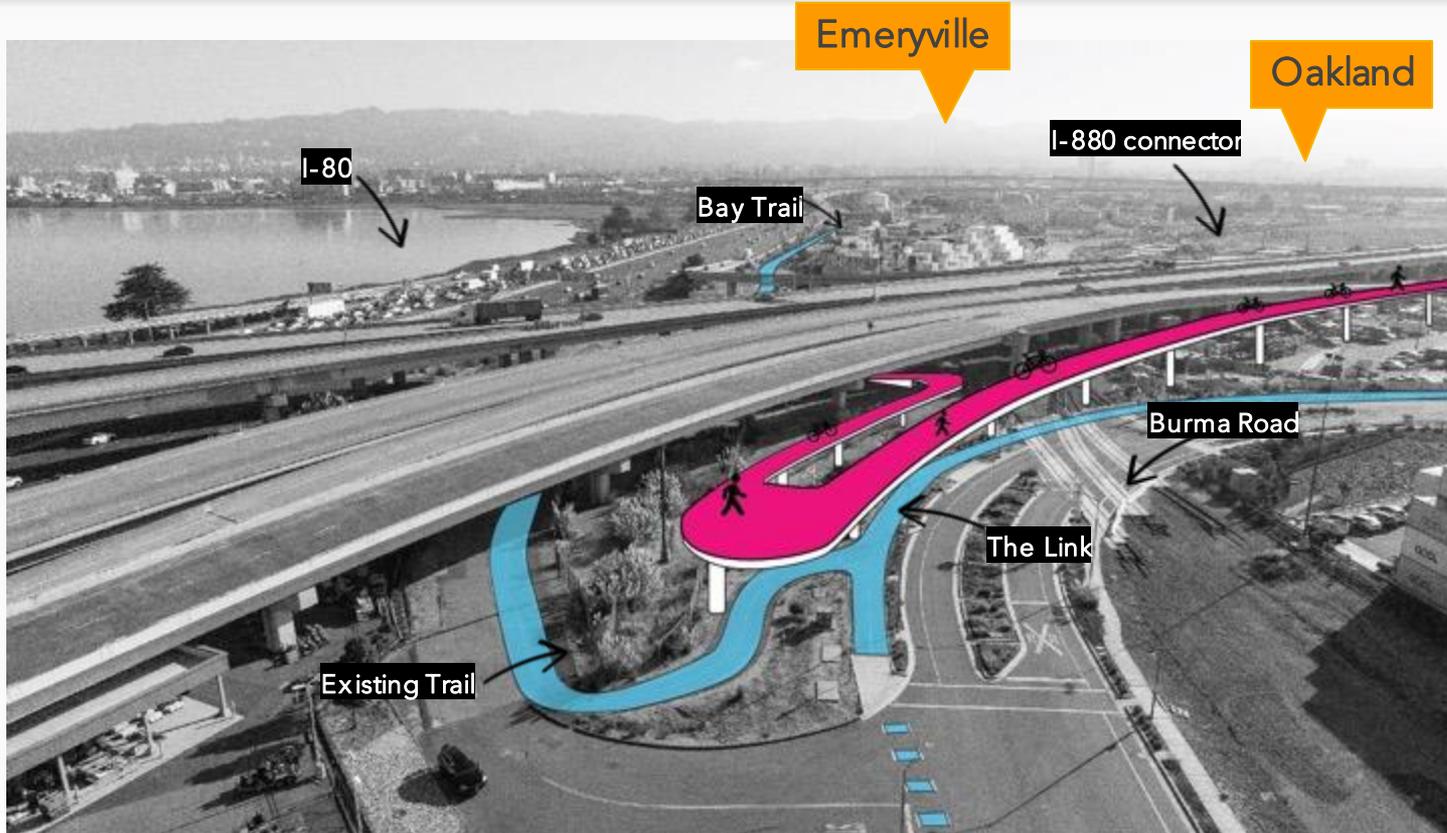
# #5 Touchdown | Aerial View to Northeast



## WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- You return to the ground and landscape
- Connects to other existing trails
- Gateway to Oakland (on the way back)

# #5 Touchdown | Aerial View to the Northeast



## WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE HERE?

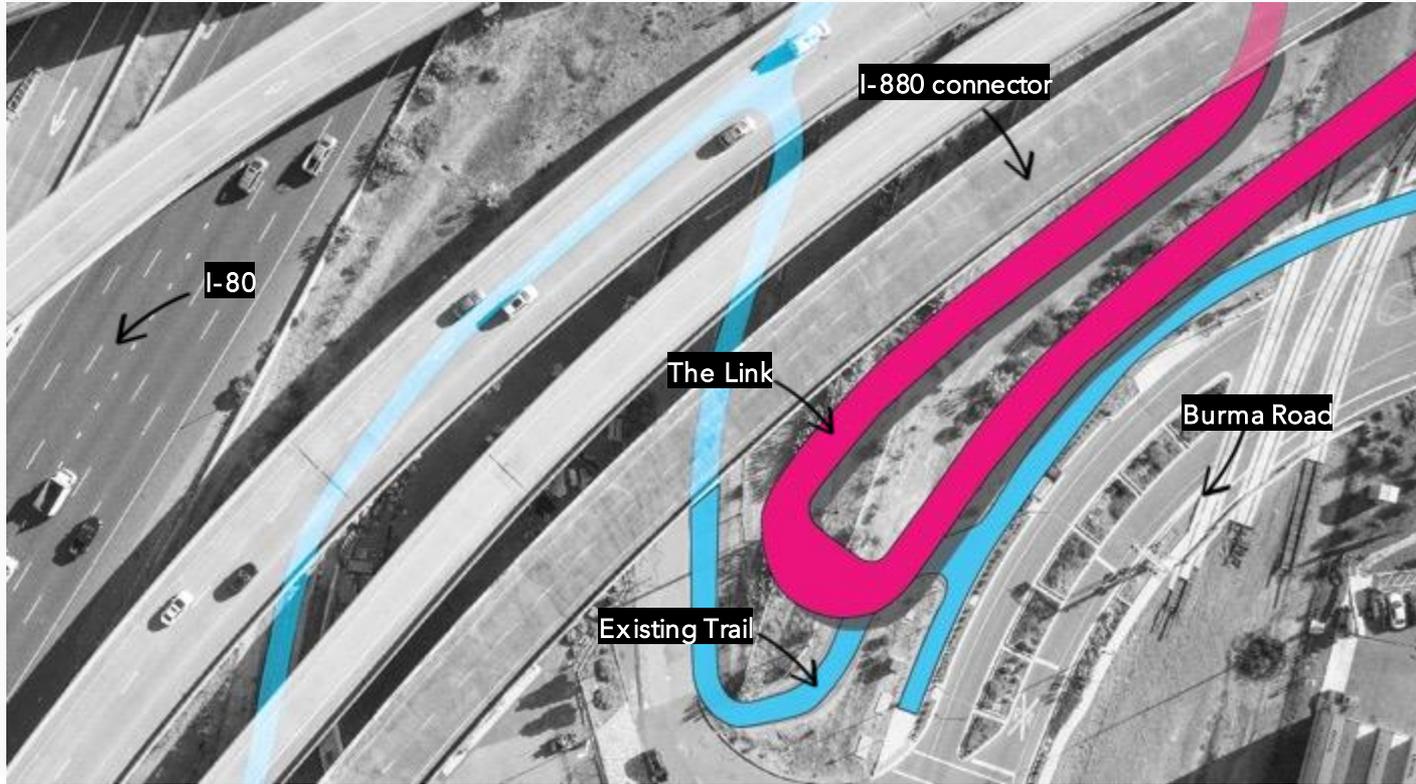
You connect to the ground here

Unique elevation and perspective

Planting

Art and Wayfinding

# #5 Touchdown | Plan View



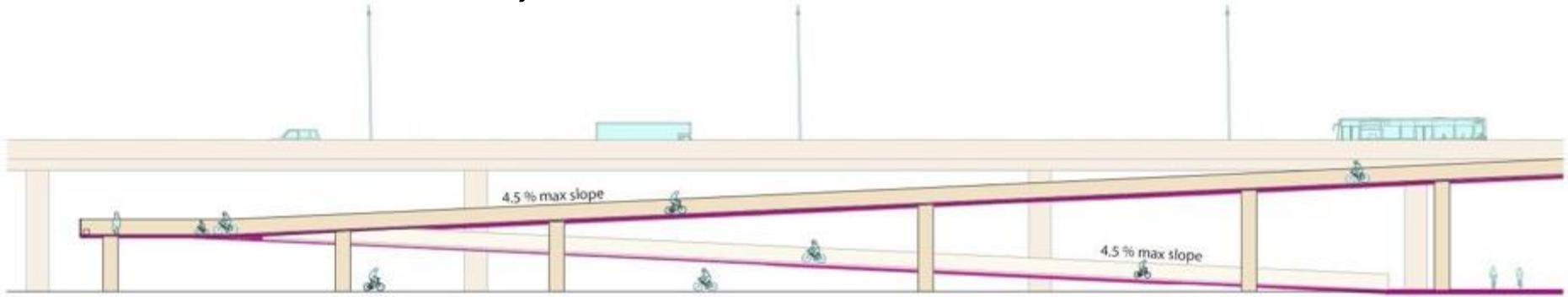
# #5 Touchdown | View from Bay Trail



# #5 Touchdown | Elevation



*Touchdown Elevation Today*



*Touchdown Elevation Proposed*

# #5 Touchdown | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?



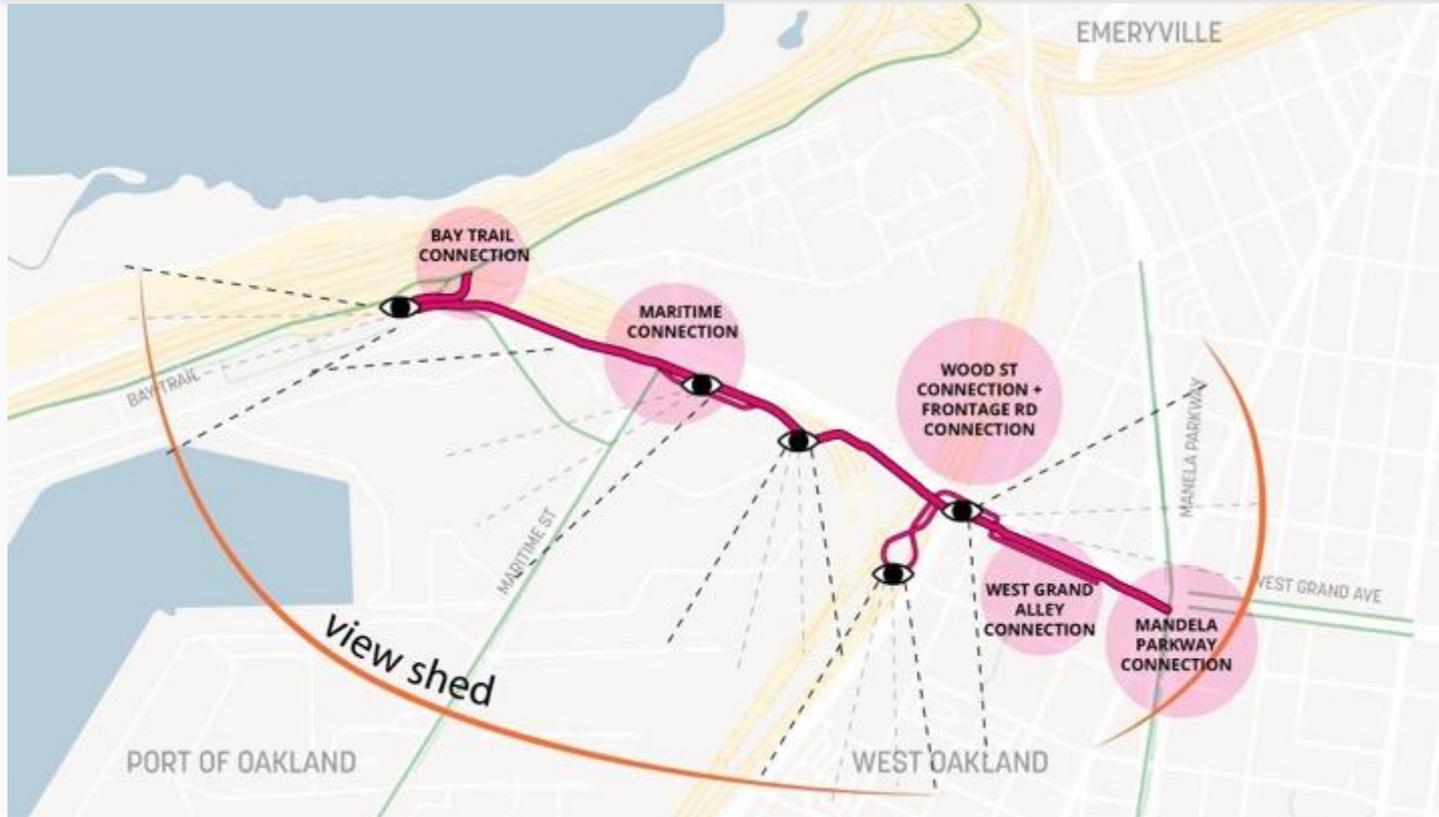
# #5 Touch Down | Prompts

## Connecting to the Bay trail!

1. The touchdown connects with multiple existing bike trails, what would help direct you? *Where* would you want signs or maps?
2. What experience seems most important to you to locate at this transition point?
3. This is on the ground, what kind of planting should happen here?



# What should repeat? How often?



# CLARIFYING QUESTIONS: Q&A (15 mins)

Is there anything which is unclear or you would like additional information about?

*Please fill out the survey*

*Thank you!*



Phase 1  
35% Design

SEP 12 2023	OCT 10 2023	OCT 17 2023	OCT 24 2023	NOV 7 2023
Community Engagement Kick-Off	Design Meeting #1 -Design Detail -Elements	Design Focus Meeting #2 -Environmental Justice -Air pollution -Public health	Design Focus Meeting #3 -Streetscape -Intersections Traffic Safety	Design Focus Meeting #4 -Place making -Design -Historical resources

Next meeting: **Oct. 17** Online

Environmental justice, air pollution & public health

RSVP at [woeip.org/events](https://woeip.org/events)



# West Oakland Link Timeline

Engagement Opportunities  
Community Input Journey

For Schedule Updates  
Visit <https://mtc.ca.gov/west-oakland-link>

Phase 2 65% Design	Phase 3 90% Design	Phase 4 100% Design	
FEB TBD 2024	JUN TBD 2024	SEP TBD 2024	MAR TBD 2025
Design Update Meeting	65% Design Update Meeting	Design Update & Construction Phase Introduction Meeting	Pre- Construction Phase Meeting



# In Person Activity! (45 mins)

## 1 Join a group!

Each group will have:

1. Map
2. Glue
3. Scissors
4. Post- It Notes
5. Markers
6. Colorful Tape





# In Person Activity! (45 mins)

3 Share back with everyone what you made!

